

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 30th January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community
And Resources

PORTFOLIO: Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Energy Update

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on related activities aimed at reducing CO2 emissions within the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report and ongoing work be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since the Council's participation in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme the Council has implemented a number of short to medium/long term actions to ensure that carbon emissions and costs were reduced. Overall the Council's CO2 emissions have significantly reduced from a baseline in 2006/7 of 26,338 tonnes of CO2, to 19,874 tonnes for 2015/16 which equates to a 24.5% reduction over the 9 year period.
- 3.2 The reduction is partly due to carbon reduction measures implemented by the Council and also the rationalisation of buildings with the Council now occupying fewer buildings.
- 3.3 The Council is currently part way through a four year programme to switch high sodium pressure street lighting used in residential areas and the main through routes in the borough to LEDs. The total cost of the programme is in the region of £4.6 m.
- 3.4 The programme schedule is to carry out 2000 LED lanterns/upgrades per year and 250 columns/LED lanterns.
- 3.5 For the 2016/17 & 2017/18 financial year, a total of 4000 LED units have been supplied and installed, and there are schemes planned/issued for 1000 more, which will be installed over the next few months and before the end of the financial year. At present the programme is on target.

- 3.6 Of the 20,000 HBC owned street lights installed in the Borough, around 11,350 have been converted to LED, with 1000 more to be installed by the end of March 2017.
- 3.7 The work to date has reduced energy consumption as follows :
- Continuous energy 916055 to 831308 = 84747kwh (Annual) reduction
- Dusk till dawn energy 8547159 to 7726611 = 820548kwh (Annual) reduction
- Energy savings implemented during October 2016 to October 2017 are approximately £110K.
- This equates to around 490 Tonnes of Carbon Reduction
- 3.8 To date the Solar PV on Council buildings has generated approximately 615,000 kilowatts of energy which equates to 253 tonnes of CO₂. The total income to date generated from Feed in Tariff payments is £224,517 with savings in energy bills approximately £55,000 - £60,000.
- 3.9 The Biomass boiler at Brookvale Leisure Centre has been operational just over two years and to date has used approximately 3.2m kilowatts replacing the oil boilers. This equates to a CO₂ reduction of 588 tonnes. In addition it has generated £150,000 of income from the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.
- 3.10 As part of the refurbishment of Norton Priory Museum the Council agreed to fund the installation of a Biomass boiler at the Museum. This is now operational and registered with the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme. This will start to generate an income from May 2017, with the first payments due later in the year.
- 3.11 The European Regional Development Fund Programme 2014 – 2021 is currently ongoing. In the programme there is a Low Carbon strand which will provide ERDF funding of approximately £25m over the programme periods.
- 3.12 The Council submitted a bid in the last call to develop a Solar Farm on the former St Michaels Golf Course. The Department for Local Government and Communities has recently advised the Council that the bid has been approved.
- 3.13 The Scheme proposes up to a 1MW Solar Farm (4000 panels) on a proportion of the former St Michaels Golf Course. This is a former landfill and the scheme will bring back into use a brownfield site and make use of a Council asset that is unsuitable for major development.

- 3.14 The Solar Farm will be connected to the Halton Stadium via a private wire. A proposal and budget costs for the connection has been provided by Scottish Power.
- 3.15 The system will produce between 850,000 and 950,000kwh per annum. The panels will have a lifetime of between 25 and 30 years. The energy generated by the Solar Farm will reduce CO2 emissions by 380 tonnes per annum.
- 3.16 It is estimated that the Stadium will use approximately 50% of the energy generated and this will significantly reduce the Stadium's running costs over the next 25-30 years. Options to use the surplus electricity at other Council facilities will be explored as part of the scheme.
- 3.17 The capital costs of the scheme are estimated at £1.3m. EDRF will meet 50% of the costs of the Scheme (650K). As part of the agreement the Council will provide the 50% match funding from the Capital Programme/Environmental Fund.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The objectives set out in the Carbon Reduction Plan and the Liverpool City Region SEAP are consistent with overall objective in the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Investment in energy efficient measures has the potential to reduce the Council's energy costs, reduce carbon emission and generate future income streams for the Council.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Encouraging investment in energy-efficiency will benefit from lower carbon emissions, job creation, supply chain development and increased competitiveness and security of energy supply.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The transition to a low carbon economy can support the development of the local economy and ensure that future economic growth is decoupled from the consumption of fossil fuels and the inevitable carbon emissions.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None.